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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Austria/USSR

DATE DISTR. 18 SEP 50

SUBJECT USIA's Central Commercial Bureau
Purchasing Strategic Metals

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1. Saurushenkov, Soviet director of USIA's Central Commercial Bureau, has just issued a priority order directing the staff of this USIA office to procure 10 tons of 99.9 percent pure electrolytic nickel cathodes, 15 tons of 98 to 99 percent pure cobalt and from 5 to 10 tons of 95 to 99 percent pure bismuth. Central Commercial Bureau employees have been advised that USIA is prepared to pay any price and, if necessary, to spend hard currencies for these metals.

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2. Reasons for this purchase are not known, but the metals are destined for shipment to Hungary, Czechoslovakia, or the Soviet Union.

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